

# *The Village of Walton Hills*

## *Committee of the Whole Meeting*

Date: April 7, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Mayor Hurst called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by Mrs. Iaconis. Present: Councilpersons Denny Linville, Mary Brenner-Miller, Paul Rich, Gloria Terlosky, Don Kolograf and Brian Spitznagel. Administration present: Katie Iaconis, Assistant Fiscal Officer; Blair Melling, Law Solicitor.

Action Taken and/or Recommendations: Councilman Kolograf motioned to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 3, 2015, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved. Councilman Rich motioned to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 10, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Brenner-Miller, and six ayes approved.

Swearing in of New Sergeant for the Police Department - Mayor Hurst asked for Council's approval to move the swearing-in ceremony to the next item on the agenda; all members voted affirmatively. Mayor Hurst swore in Melissa Walsh to the office of Sergeant of the Walton Hills Police Department.

Persons Having Business Before Council – None

Council Comments – Councilman Rich discussed the unsightliness of the fallen trees in the Metroparks off of Dunham Road.

Allowing Chickens to be Kept on Village Lots (Potential Revision Of C.O. 1266.07) – Mayor Hurst read his memo to Council into record regarding comments/complaints that he has received relating to allowing chickens in the Village. Jean Kainsinger (18955 Orchard Hill) stated that raising chickens using new innovations will not cause harm to the Village.

*Resident Bill Deak entered the Council Chambers and closed the door. Mayor Hurst asked that the door be opened and wanted it on record that it was an open meeting and the door was closed by mistake.*

Tim Wadle (7677 Dunham Road) stressed that he wants to provide healthy food for his family and the community, and he would raise chickens responsibly. Henry Dzikowski (7135 Dunham Road) commented that it is an unreasonable ordinance to allow horses but not chickens. Bethany Majeski (7257 Dunham Road) encouraged the consideration of the many benefits of allowing chickens in the community, which vastly outweigh the potential problems. She also offered her services to conduct educational programs on this issue. Joanne Rich (17368 Alexander Road) expressed her opposition to raising chickens. Bob Kainsinger (18955 Orchard Hill) stressed that as long as odor can be controlled there should be no opposition to allowing chickens in the Village. Councilman Rich stated at this time there is no infrastructure in place to allow chickens. Councilman Spitznagel indicated that a lot of people are against chickens for fear of the unknown and he proceeded to discuss several issues involving chickens. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller stressed that there would have to be stringent regulations if chickens were allowed. Joe Serio (7699 Dunham Road) questioned why chickens would have to be over-regulated if horses are not. Councilman Linville noted that chickens can be unsanitary and there is already an ordinance that disallows chickens. Mr. Melling indicated that the drafters of the current code made a distinction between domesticated and farm animals and allowing chickens would be crossing the line; it would be hard to say yes to chickens and no to pigs. Denny Harkai (7120 Hickory Drive) pointed out that even if allowing chickens was policed well, it will breed disputes between neighbors that don't have to be bred. Mayor Hurst asked that this issue be considered for discussion at next week's COW meeting to see if an ordinance should be drafted in May.

At 7:20 p.m., Councilwoman Terlosky motioned to take a five minute break, seconded by Councilman Kolograf, and six ayes approved. Councilman Linville motioned to reconvene from the break at 7:26 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Terlosky, and six ayes approved.

Discussion on Ordinance No. 2013-20 – Size Limitation For Accessory Buildings (Tabled 2/17/15) and Discussion on Ordinance No. 2013-21 – Attached Garage Size/Must Share Common Wall With Dwelling (Tabled 2/17/15) – Duke Owens discussed the changes that the Board of Zoning Appeals suggested to the proposed ordinances. Mayor Hurst indicated that these ordinances are not clear and he is sure that Council will let them fall of the table. Mr. Melling asked Mr. Owens to meet with him to address the Board of Zoning Appeals' suggestions. Mayor Hurst indicated that this issue will be readdressed when Mr. Melling has something to present to Council.

Discussion on Lawn Decoration Ordinances and Zoning – Mayor Hurst explained that he received a complaint in writing from a resident on Walton Road about an Alexander Road resident who has a Bob's Big Boy statue in her front yard. He stated that language needs to be put together to control the size of and time limit for a yard decoration. Councilman Rich stressed that the safety issue needs to be addressed. Denny Harkai (7120 Hickory Drive) suggested requiring a permit and a permit fee for lawn decorations. Mayor Hurst asked Mr. Melling to draft legislation on this issue for May or June.

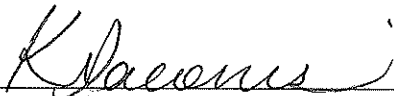
Resolution Authorizing the Village to Apply for a Nature Works Grant for T.G. Young Park – Mayor Hurst indicated that this legislation must be passed in April and will be placed on the next Council meeting agenda. He explained the Nature Works Grant it is a matching grant where the Village pays 25%. He noted that Chagrin Valley Engineering and Carol Stanoszek are helping with the grant.

Other Business – Mayor Hurst showed Council his sketches of different gateway signs and cross buck fencing with lighting for the corner of Alexander Road and Northfield Road (Western Reserve Battery). He noted that racetrack owner Brock Millstein is interest in funding half of the cost. He also showed sketches of Ward's Bridge and a railroad bridge in the Village with brackets to hold flags and the gateway coming out of Oakwood going into Walton Hills. He discussed plans to clean up the bridge and to enhance the Village's rain garden with cross buck fencing. A discussion took place on improvements to the Western Reserve Battery building. Mayor Hurst discussed the possibility of Carr Brothers moving their gravel away from the front of their building. He discussed the temporary parking situation at Smith & Oby. He announced that the Village is inheriting three acres on Northfield Road besides NPK that has not yet transferred. He indicated that he has a special meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> that will be beneficial to the Village in a major way. He announced that the Sagamore Road waterline project will be started by week's end. He indicated that he would be out of the office April 10<sup>th</sup> and would be back on April 13<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed the agenda items for the next C.O.W. meeting.

Mr. Melling asked Council to forward to him any comments they have regarding the Nature Works Grant legislation prior to next week if any alternation needs to be made.

Mayor Hurst reported that he is discussing tax abatement with two companies contemplating expansion; he noted that Council would be made aware of this in Executive Session. He also indicated that a report on the Enterprise Zone Agreement with Arhaus will be given at next week's C.O.W. meeting.

Councilwoman Brenner-Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Linville and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
Katie Iaconis, Assistant Fiscal Officer